

ANOTHER PRODUCT PATENT GRANTED TO VENUS REMEDIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

This is to inform you that Companies and Intellectual Property Registration Office (CIPRO) from Republic of South Africa has granted a Product Patent to one of the research products of Venus used to combat beta-lactamase generated drug resistance. This novel combination of a beta-lactam with beta-lactamases inhibitor is a specialty product whose patent was filed in 2004.

SULBACTOMAX: the innovative drug combination is indicated mainly for LRTI and pre-post surgical infections caused by wide range of ESBL producing cephalosporin resistant strains. LRTI is a common condition posing a heavy economic burden to the health care system, especially when hospitalization is required.

Post-operative Surgical Site Infections are the most common healthcare-associated infection, occurring in up to 5 percent of surgical patients. Treatment of the **infections** caused by **ESBL**-producing organisms is difficult, not only because of the resistance to the extended-spectrum cephalosporins themselves, but also because they are often associated with resistance to other antimicrobial agents coded either by the same or different plasmids. **SULBACTOMAX** provides solution to chronic problem of ESBL producing resistant strains by widening the antibacterial spectrum and reducing treatment time. It additionally helps in better tissue penetration and reduces drug and disease induced side effects, thereby giving better patient compliance as is evident from Phase IV clinical trials conducted on around 300 patients by Venus Clinical Research Services. The product is reported to be safe in patients ranging from neonates to adults.

The Republic of South Africa represents one of the most diverse medical markets in the world and is at sixth position out of the 17 Middle East and Africa (MEA) markets. Still, the market is expected to continue growing at around 9% in local currency terms, reaching the value of ZAR 31.7bn (US\$3.9bn) at the end of 2013, illustrating significant commercial opportunities. Current SA market size is estimated at about \$2 billion which is mainly dependent upon imports which are at \$1.44 billion. **SULBACTOMAX** has a huge potential to replace the ailing cephalosporin market due to resistance.

Venus launched **SULBACTOMAX** about 5 years back after successful completion of multi centric Phase III clinical trials and approval from DCGI. At present Sulbactomax is registered and marketed in many countries of Africa, CIS, Middle East and South East Asia. Company is in the process of out licensing and further registration of **SULBACTOMAX** in South African Market through CTD route. With grant of this patent in SA , Venus is expecting to generate handsome business out of this research recognition.

